

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (canceled)

3. (original) ~~The method of claim 2, wherein the disease treated is~~ A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis in a human or non-human animal in need thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

administering to the human or non-human animal a composition that consists of a conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) and one or more carriers wherein the CLA is in an amount effective to reduce joint inflammation in the human or non-human animal; and

observing an improvement in joint redness and swelling in the human or non-human animal.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 3, wherein the CLA is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ a free conjugated linoleic acid, an ester of a conjugated linoleic acid, a non-toxic salt of a conjugated linoleic acid, an active isomer of a conjugated linoleic acid, an active metabolite of a conjugated linoleic acid, and a mixture thereof.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the free conjugated linoleic acid is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ an 18:2(9c,11t) isomer, an 18:2(9t,11c) isomer, an 18:2(10c,12t) isomer and an 18:2 (10t,12c) isomer.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the animal is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ a mammal and an avian.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the mammal is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ a human, a non-human primate, a horse, a canine, a feline, a rodent, a porcine, a bovine, a caprine and an ovine.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the mammal is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ a human, a horse, a canine and a feline.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the mammal is a human.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the administering step comprises a method selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ oral delivery, intramuscular injection, intravenous injection, transdermal delivery, transmucosal delivery and parenteral delivery.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the administering step comprises oral delivery.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the CLA is added to a food and the food is consumed by the animal.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the food contains 0.01% to 5% of CLA by weight of the food.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the food contains 0.05% to 2% of CLA by weight of the food.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the CLA is administered in a dosage of between about 0.001 g/kg and 1 g/kg body weight of the animal.